
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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State Task Force Seizes Tons of Illegal Fireworks from Nevada

San Bernardino County – Over 14 tons of illegal fireworks have been confiscated in the past 10 days by a specialized statewide law enforcement task force. State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva, Director of CDF, announced today that a special operation is blocking the transportation of illegal fireworks from Nevada into California and will continue its work through the July 4 holiday. This year officers have already seized more than 90 tons of illegal fireworks, preventing these dangerous materials from reaching the streets of California.

“The state has zero tolerance when it comes to illegal fireworks,” Grijalva said. “This operation is geared toward preventing life-threatening injuries. One thing is for sure: the fireworks that have been confiscated can no longer pose a fire threat to Californians or send an injured child to the emergency room.”

The haul that has already been confiscated includes Illegal firecrackers, roman candles, and mortar shells, the large aerial fireworks used at professional fireworks shows which cause many of the fires and injuries attributed to illegal fireworks.

The special operation began the weekend of June 17 and will continue through the July 4. People found with illegal fireworks will be cited for illegal possession and the fireworks will be confiscated. Anyone found to have in excess of 17 ounces collective of black powder are charged with a felony. So far, more than 75 felony and misdemeanor citations have been issued.

Grijalva was joined by Deputy Chief Paul Cook from the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department along with leaders from other agencies involved in the major interdiction operation to interrupt the flow of fireworks from Nevada. The task force is jointly coordinated through the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Office of State Fire Marshal. Allied agencies involved in the interdiction effort include the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department and the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.

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